the "play mode" Accordingly, many modifications may be made by one of ordinary skill in the art without departing from the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for displaying an overlay bar on a digital imaging device comprising the steps of:

a)   displaying the overlay bar in a predetermined area of a display screen for displaying text information, the overlay bar comprising a plurality of pixels corresponding to the text information;

b)   providing an image to display on the display screen, the image comprising a plurality of pixels having luminance values; and

c)   displaying the image by

i)   modifying the luminance value of each pixel of the image data that falls within the area of the overlay bar, and

ii)   overwriting each pixel of image data that falls under a pixel of text in the overlay bar,

wherein modifying the luminance values of the image data provides the overlay bar with a translucent appearance thereby enabling a user to see the image through the overlay bar.

2   A method as in claim 1 wherein step ci) further includes the steps of

saving each pixel of the image data that falls within the area of the overlay bar,

creating saved image data; and

in response to the user turning-off the overlay bar, displaying the saved image

data on the display screen, thereby eliminating the need to re-display the entire image.

3 ✗   A method as in claim 2 wherein step a) further includes the step of

providing the overlay bar with graphic information.

4 ✗   A method as in claim 3 wherein step ci) for modifying the luminance

values includes the step of decreasing the luminance values.

5 ✗   A method as in claim 3 wherein step ci) for modifying the luminance

values includes the step of increasing the luminance values.

6 ✗   A method as in claim 3 wherein step c) further includes the step of

displaying the image line-by-line.

7 ✗   A method as in claim 3 wherein step c) further includes the step of

displaying the image block-by-block.

33

8   A system for displaying an overlay bar and an image from a digital imaging device on a display screen, the image comprising lines of image data, the system comprising:

a memory comprising a first buffer, a second buffer, and a display buffer coupled to the display screen for storing data to be displayed on the display screen;

means for updating the first buffer with overlay bar text and graphic information;

means for storing into the second buffer a first plurality of the lines of image data that will be displayed in an area of the display screen occupied by the overlay bar;

means for storing into the display buffer a second plurality of the lines of image data that will not be displayed in an area of the display screen occupied by the overlay bar; and

means for merging the contents of the first buffer with the second buffer and for writing the merged contents into the display buffer for display.

9   A system as in claim 8 wherein the first buffer is an overlay bar buffer, and the second buffer is a backstore buffer.

10   A system as in claim 9 further including means responsive to a user turning-off the overlay bar for coping the contents of the backstore buffer to the display buffer to eliminate the need to re-display every line of image data.

11   A system as in claim 10 wherein the overlay bar is a first overlay bar, the system including means for displaying a second overlay bar, the overlay bar buffer and

P166   -33-

the backstore buffer each being divided into a first and second portions, wherein the first portion corresponds to the first overlay bar and the second portion corresponds to the second overlay bar.